



Reef Check
MALAYSIA



2023 ANNUAL REPORT

REEF CHECK MALAYSIA

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A WORD FROM THE CEO

If 2023 ended with a flurry of activity, 2024 has started with a **bang!**

Some years come to a quiet end as programmes are put on hold during the monsoon season. Not so 2023! All our teams, in their various locations, continued to be busy right to the end of the year. Ground-truthing surveys for a new remote sensing system in Semporna; capacity building for the new Redang Marine Conservation Group (RMCG); and seagrass monitoring in Johor – all continued well after the end of the usual “season” marked by the onset of the Northeast monsoon in October.

2023 saw continued progress in our various long-term conservation efforts. Our main focus is to replicate the success of the Tioman Marine Conservation Group (TMCG), and we are working to build up similar teams in Redang, Perhentian, Mersing and Semporna.

In each location we are building capacity among local communities to participate in conservation programmes, including reef monitoring, predator control and reef rehabilitation. These efforts align strongly with the Global Biodiversity Framework, particularly Targets 3 and 22, providing us with a roadmap to ensure our work remains relevant and impactful.

As always, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our various supporters, from funders to volunteers. We would not be able to achieve the conservation results we are seeing without a lot of support; you are what makes Reef Check Malaysia the success it has become.

And now we enter 2024 firing on all cylinders. Our vision remains the same: sustainably managed marine ecosystems in Malaysia. This year we hope to make further progress on integrating communities into management and developing sustainable funding for long-term conservation. We are looking forward to 2024 with quite some anticipation; join us on our journey.

JULIAN HYDE
CEO

REEF CHECK MALAYSIA



VISION & MISSION



VISION

Sustainably managed marine ecosystems in Malaysia

MISSION

To bring together stakeholders to collaborate on marine ecosystem monitoring, management, research, conservation, and advocacy



2023 IN REVIEW

Stopped construction of the proposed new airport on Tioman Island

Avoided irreversible damage to marine ecosystem and local businesses on the island

Recycling efforts in Pulau Sibul (Mersing) that began in 2022 is still ongoing

31 houses involved, 1054kg of recyclables transported out of island

Recycling programme in Pulau Sibul successfully replicated in Pulau Tinggi (Mersing)

Received support and participation from 19 houses to date

Launched a one-year, first land-based coastal community pilot waste management in Kampung Baru-Baru, Tuaran (replicate of system in Mantanani Island)

Participation from 100 households

Established 3 new conservation groups within the community in Semporna – Larapan Marine Conservation Group, Kulapuan Marine Conservation Group, and Selakan Marine Conservation Group

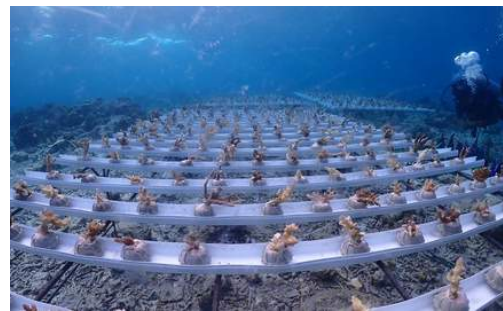
Groups will spearhead the conservation works in their respective islands.

WHAT WE DO

FOUR CONSERVATION PILLARS

SCIENCE

We conduct reef rehabilitation programmes and reef resilience surveys around various islands, the results of which are used in management plans for these islands. We also monitor for coral bleaching around Malaysia.



MANAGEMENT

We train island communities to be marine conservation leaders. One of our goals is to involve local communities in the management and conservation of their island's resources, which contributes to its success.

ECO-ACTION

We train certified divers to conduct annual Reef Check surveys of coral reefs around Malaysia. The data collected over time reflect the changing status of coral reefs and indicate what steps can be taken to conserve them.



ADVOCACY

We raise awareness of the importance of coral reefs and the valuable ecosystem services they provide. We promote sustainable marine tourism through Green Fins, Green Hotels, and Eco-Friendly Snorkel Guide programmes.



MILESTONES

REEF REHABILITATION

7190

fragments rescued and planted

SUSTAINABLE TOURISM EFFORTS

GREEN FINS ASSESSMENTS

22
members as of 2023

GREEN HOTEL STANDARD ASSESSMENT

90
passed

MOORING BUOYS

37
installed

Sustainable tourism initiatives help protect coral reefs and marine life. They add value to tourists' experience, giving them an opportunity to indulge in a holiday that is safe and kind to the environment. Local operators are able to build businesses that are both economically and environmentally sustainable.



COMMUNITY SKILLS TRAININGS & WORKSHOPS

505

individuals equipped with various new skills

EDUCATION & AWARENESS INITIATIVES

2,571

students involved

MILESTONES

WASTE MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME

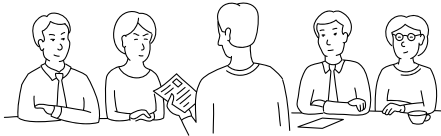
113,819.81kg
waste collected

45,936.4kg
recycled



Local Community Consultations

511
interviewed for
opinion and
feedback



Beach & Underwater Clean-ups

17,581.48kg
rubbish prevented from
polluting the marine
environment

Ghost nets
7,595kg
nets removed from
the sea

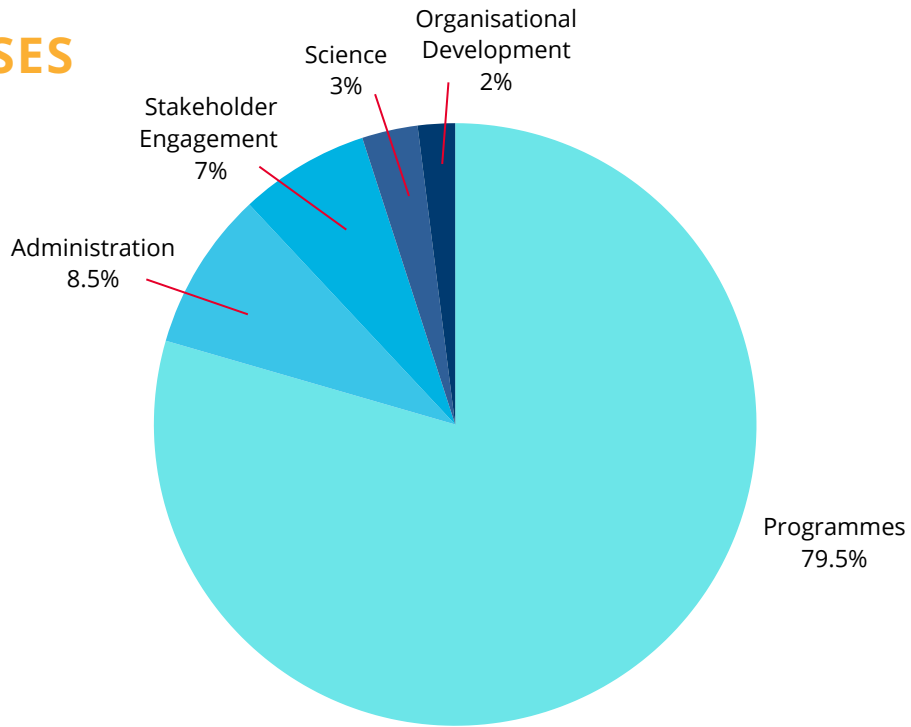
Crown-of-Thorn Starfish

2011
individuals culled and
removed from reefs

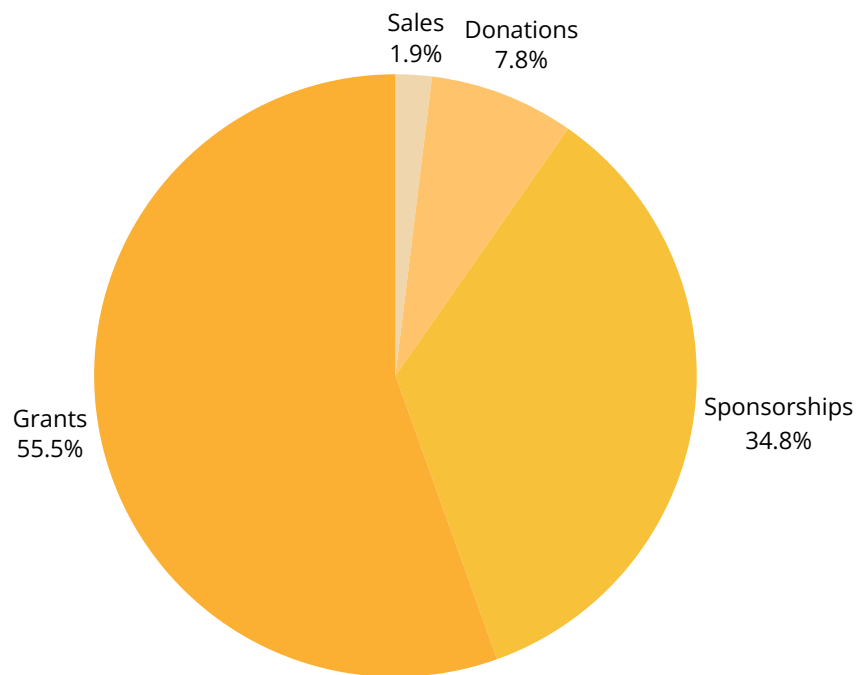


FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

EXPENSES



REVENUE



SUCCESS STORY

A YOUNG BOY'S JOURNEY TO PRESERVE OUR REEFS

In 2011, a young 11-year old boy excitedly packed his bags for a 3-day 'Coral Reef Camp' held at his school on Redang Island. It was there that he met the newest colleagues of Reef Check Malaysia (RCM), Alvin and Sue, who were assisting during the camp.

This Coral Reef Camp (CRC), was part two of a three-part marine educational programme held for primary school students based on islands, carried out by RCM. This young boy remembered how excited he was to learn more about the ocean and coral reefs.

Growing up on Redang, Muhaimin loved the ocean, spending much time swimming and snorkeling, as his father was a SCUBA diving instructor at a local resort on the island. That love made him passionate about protecting it.

Fast forward to 2023, RCM kicked off the long-term community programme called "Cintai Redang" on Redang Island. Our aim is to build the resilience of coral reefs and the local island community, empowering them to take on greater roles in the management of the island and its marine resources.



Muhaimin (top left) with other RMCG members

To initiate this effort, our colleague began speaking to the local islanders, to recruit interested individuals to be a part of the Redang Marine Conservation Group (RMCG). This group would be trained with the necessary skills to help with marine conservation activities. An excited Muhaimin saw his golden opportunity to finally channel all his passion and energy into meaningful work, making his dream a reality.

Today, he is a proud member of the RMCG and wants to make it his duty to preserve the marine life in Redang for the next generation. He credits his interest and passion to the educational programmes held by RCM more than 10 years ago.

"This programme made me realise the importance of coral reefs and marine life. I've also seen the impact of pollution and plastics on the sea. I've realised I need to step up and ensure that the seas and marine life in Redang stays the way it is,"

In early 2023, he was reunited with Alvin and Sue (who are still with RCM today), whom he remembers from his camp in 2011! A couple of months ago, Muhaimin joined Reef Check Malaysia full time, as an Assistant Programme Manager, based on Redang Island.



Muhaimin conducting a Reef Check survey

PARTNERSHIP & COLLABORATIONS

SEMPORNA

- Green Semporna
- Borneo Komrad and Kesatuan
- Sekolah Alternatif
- WWF-Malaysia
- Sabah Parks
- Pejabat Daerah Semporna
- Aquadive Discovery Sdn Bhd
- Pertubuhan Wanita Kampung Song-Song (WANIS)



MERSING

- Department of Fisheries (DoF)
- Tengah Island Conservation)
- Mersing Tourism Association
- Mersing District Council
- Mersing District Office
- Johor National Parks Corporation
- Lembaga Kemajuan Ikan Malaysia (LKIM)
- Department of Forestry
- Malaysian Army
- Fisheries Research Institute (FRI), Rantau Abang
- MareCet
- Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative (YSEALI) Council of Malaysia
- U.S. Embassy in Kuala Lumpur

TIOMAN

- Fuze Ecoteer
- Juara Turtle Project
- Universiti Putra Malaysia
- Universiti Teknologi Malaysia
- Nottingham University
- Department of Fisheries (DoF)
- Jabatan Laut Malaysia
- Perhilitan
- Alam Flora
- Jabatan Alam Sekitar
- MPKK Tioman
- Tioman Development Authority (TDA)

REDANG

- Terengganu State Park
- Department of Fisheries (DoF)
- PLAN Malaysia
- Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT)
- Laguna Resort Redang

KOTA KINABALU & MANTANANI

- Pertubuhan Wanita Kampung Song-Song (WANIS)
- Green's Educator Workgroup (GREW)
- WWF
- Sabah Parks
- All-Party Parliamentary Group Malaysia-Sustainable Development Goals (APPGM-SDG)



OUTREACH PROGRAMMES

MERSING

1. Marine Conservation Awareness Workshop
 - 2D1N programme participated by 17 local youths between 15-18 years old.
 - Activities: discussions, educational tour, field visits, guided snorkeling activity
2. Pendidik Ekosistem dan Alam Sekitar (PEDAS)
 - Awareness programme on coral reef ecosystem
 - 10 local schools involved
 - Collaboration with Mersing District Council, Pejabat Pendidikan Daerah Mersing, Trash Hero Malaysia & MareCet.
3. Virtual Awareness Tour (Facebook live)
 - 542 people viewed the tour of Pulau Mawar marine ecosystem

TIOMAN

1. Marine Environment Educational Sessions
 - 2 new schools added (total: 4 schools)
 - Fish identification (ID) session at Tekek Marina with secondary school students
2. Hosted Nottingham University Malaysia
 - One-week programme on Tioman
 - Topics covered: different ecosystems on Tioman Island
3. Collaboration with Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM)
 - Conducted a micro-plastic study
 - Beach clean-up activities
4. Collaboration with Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UiTM)
 - Tested new underwater drones
 - Trained to identify giant clams



OUTREACH PROGRAMMES



REDANG

RCM signed an MoU with SK Redang in October 2023.

- Five posters are currently displayed at the school.
- Educational programmes will actively begin in 2024.

KOTA KINABALU & MANTANANI

1. Workshop on “Lestari Amalan Kitar Semula”

- In conjunction with the Green Communities Upcycling Project, partnered with APPGM-SDG and Kelab Belia Tinagayan
- 31 youths from Lahad Datu (from B40 families)
- Focused on upcycling recyclable waste into new, functioning products for daily use or as a marketable product.

SEMPORNA

1. Educational programmes with 6 primary and secondary schools
2. Exhibitions at schools
 - Focus on the uniqueness of Semporna Islands and their marine life, with emphasis on the threats and possible solutions.



EVENTS

INTERNATIONAL COASTAL CLEAN-UP (ICC) 2023

- 9 September 2023
- 11, 254 volunteers
- 29,466.06kg trash collected
- 273,807 items collected

TOP 5 COMMONLY FOUND ITEMS

- most are **plastics**, which account for **60%** of all trash collected
- **98%** of items collected were made from **non-biodegradable** materials.



DRT SHOW 2023

- 24 - 26 February 2023
- Marine Awareness Exhibition



IPC SHOPPING CENTRE'S MARCH 2023 SCHOOL HOLIDAY CAMPAIGN

- 24 February - 5 March 2023
- Educational Exhibition



KUALA LUMPUR STANDARD CHARTERED MARATHON (KLSCM) 2023

- 1 October 2023
- Julian Hyde (CEO), Muhaimin (Assistant Programme Manager), Hasanudin (RMCG member) and 96 other runners ran to raise funds for RCM under the "Run for a Reason" programme
- RM19,133.90 was raised



EVENTS

KOD BLUE: LAUT NEEDS YOU

- 23 September 2023
- 159 kg of trash (beach-cleanup)
- 20 kg ghost nets; 65 COTs (underwater cleanup)



'Kod Blue: Laut Needs You' was chosen as 'code blue' in the medical field means an emergency. Blue is also used to refer to the **ocean**. The latter part of the name is used to indicate a wake-up call and call to action as the ocean needs our urgent help.

The event featured a '*pasar malam mesra alam*' by the local community, beach and underwater cleanup COT removal, workshops, lucky draw session, and an interactive education session.

The first in its series, we hope that it will become a tradition in our community. The event was held to bring all stakeholders together to raise awareness of the ocean's health.



SOCIAL MEDIA REACH



188 posts in 2023 | 287,255 reach
20.92% engagement rate* | 6,523 followers

**Thanks to the 'No Tioman Airport' campaign*



223 posts in 2023 | 219,972 reach
2.53% engagement rate | 13,298 page likes



121 posts in 2023 | 45,380 impressions
13.13% engagement rate | 1884 followers



311 posts in 2023 | ± 190,400 impressions
1.63% engagement rate | 1884 followers



PRESS REACH



Public Engagement

70 talks, conferences, strategic meetings and events



Media

7 Press releases released and published |
8 TV and Radio interviews



Awards and Recognitions

1. Blue Ocean Heroes 2023 (Finalist)
2. CTI-CFF Youth Ambassador Program - Young Professional



Scientific Publication/Journal:

1. Fishes of Darvel Bay: An Updated Checklist (Co-author)

SCIENCE, RESEARCH & DATA

ANNUAL SURVEY REPORT 2023

On average, the coral reefs are found to be at “fair” level of living coral, at **45.87%***

Abundance of most indicator fish and invertebrates remains **low****

326 sites were surveyed in 2023, both in established Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and non-protected areas

Indicators of disturbance and pollution have **increased** in many reef areas***



1. * This is a slight decrease compared to 2022 (47.83%). It is likely that this deterioration is at least partly due to the resumption of tourism after the COVID pandemic, which contributes to the increase in tourist visitors to coral reefs.
2. ** Historical over-harvesting and low natural populations might be reasons for this, but many of the sites surveyed are in MPAs, where protection might be expected to encourage populations to grow.
3. *** Many reef areas in the Sunda Shelf region have issues with crown-of-thorns outbreak.

SCIENCE, RESEARCH & DATA

ANNUAL SURVEY REPORT 2023 (RECOMMENDATIONS)

- The report recommends taking action to **improve management of marine resources** by **addressing local impacts** and **introducing participatory management**. This gives local stakeholders a stronger voice in decisions that affect their livelihoods.
- Particular emphasis is given to building resilience – both ecological and economic. **Resilient reefs** are more likely to withstand or bounce back from the growing threats of climate change. **Resilient communities** have diversified economies and do not rely entirely on coral reefs for their livelihoods
- The government is asked to consider introducing a more **sustainable tourism model**, moving away from the “mass” tourism model of the last 20-30 years.

For more details, you may access the report: [2023 Status of Coral Reefs in Malaysia](#)



SCIENCE, RESEARCH & DATA

CORAL REEF BLEACHING SURVEYS

- RCM collects bleaching data from across Malaysia and sends it to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).
- Bleaching was observed in 2023, though not very severe. However, the records of bleaching in November and December is a very unusual phenomenon.
- RCM colleagues have been following NOAA alerts and taking steps according to the island-based Bleaching Response Plan.
- According to NOAA predictions, 2024 will experience severe and earlier bleaching episodes.
- RCM is preparing communication materials to be distributed and published in all our social media channels. This is done to pre-inform our local stakeholders regarding the possibility of severe bleaching in 2024, the steps that we will take as well as what they can do to help.



CORAL REEF RESILIENCE SURVEYS

- Reef resilience surveys were conducted in 2021-2023 at selected islands along the East Coast of Peninsular Malaysia, all within the boundaries of Marine Parks.
- The proportion of site resilience ranking varied among the study locations
- Approximately **one-fifth** of the survey sites at **Redang, Tioman, and Aur-Pemanggil Islands** were found to have **"High" resilience reefs**,
- For the Stress Level assessment, **Pulau Tioman** was recorded to have **more "High" stress sites** compared to the rest of the locations.
- It is recommended that **high resilience sites with low-stress levels** be classified as **total no access/conservation zones** to prevent any elevated stress and maintain healthy coral reef conditions.
- For **high resilience sites with medium-low or medium-high stress levels**, **mitigation efforts could be increased** to prevent deterioration into lower resilience rankings. Furthermore, sites in this group should be
- Sites within **medium resilience** rankings are **ideal for tourism activities**.
- For low-resilience sites, efforts such as coral reef restoration programs may help increase the live coral cover.
- This study provides an overview of reef health conditions and the potential threats to marine ecosystems. It aims to provide information for reef managers to make informed decisions to protect and conserve the coral reefs.

COMMUNITY STORIES



Abdillah, on the right, joining our work

Abdillah is a local boatman from Pulau Besar, Mersing. He underwent training on reef rehabilitation techniques, and is a certified EcoDiver, who can conduct Reef Check surveys.

Upon completion of the trainings, Abdillah can now identify healthy and stressed corals, different fish and corals. "I hope the marine ecosystem of my island will always be in good condition. I am looking forward to participating in more programmes organised by Reef Check," he says.

"I participated in the training courses offered as I wanted to upskill myself and learn more about the marine environment. This way, I can communicate better with tourists I meet, and I can tell them more about my island and the ecosystem around it".

"I now know that my island is a potential breeding area for turtles and dugongs, and the future generation will be able to see them. I hope to participate in more programmes by RCM in the future."

Adha, a local fisherman, was born and raised in Pulau Tinggi. He loves marine animals, but admits to not knowing much about the ocean despite growing up very close to it. He recently joined the 'Stranding and Necropsy Workshop for Turtles and Marine Mammals'. Adha says, " I learnt more about turtles and dugongs, and I am excited to share my knowledge with my family and friends".

This programme provided Adha with guidance on collecting and recording data on marine animals stranding in the future, and sending the data to government agencies or NGOs.



Rasidah is an active member of TMCG

Rasidah is a local resident of Tioman Island, who runs her own small baking business. However, she still found time to be involved with the Tioman Marine Conservation Group (TMCG) since its early set-up stages. She went from being certified as an EcoDiver to now being a licensed EcoDiver trainer. Rasidah is a very active and valuable member of the TMCG and has travelled to our other project locations to help carry out the activities.

"TMCG provides me with many opportunities to develop my skills and to pursue my interest in diving and conservation."

CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS

While the recently-signed **Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF)** provides us a roadmap for our work, much remains to be done to achieve the 23 targets in the agreement. RCM is focusing on three targets: **3**, **19** and **22**.

3

Ensure and enable that by 2030 at least 30% of terrestrial, inland water, and of coastal and marine areas...are effectively conserved AND MANAGED...Recognizing and respecting the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, including over their traditional territories.

22

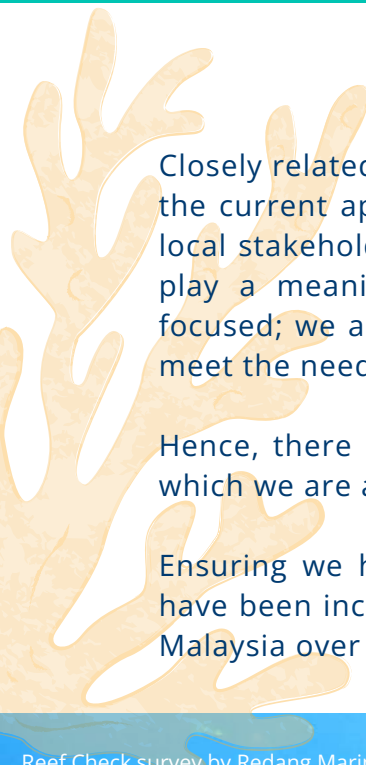
Ensure the FULL, inclusive, effective and gender-responsive representation and participation in decision-making... access to justice and information related to biodiversity by ALL...respecting their cultures and their rights over lands, territories, resources, and traditional knowledge.

Target 3, the so-called “**30x30 Target**” calls for 30% of marine areas to be protected by 2030. The Department of Fisheries is investigating opportunities to expand Marine Protected Areas in Peninsular Malaysia, and Sabah Parks and Sarawak Forestry Corporation are making similar efforts in those two states.

But there is a “**second half**” to **Target 3**, which refers to the need to ensure protected areas are “effectively conserved and managed” through “equitably governed” systems that ensure the rights of local communities are protected. Similarly, **Target 22** calls for the inclusion of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs) in the management of protected areas.

Taken together, we interpret these two targets to indicate that local communities should take a more central role in managing Marine Parks, and our various community-based conservation programmes are very much in line with this aspiration. Our **biggest challenge** is ensuring sufficient capacity among local communities to empower them to effectively fulfil this role.

CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS



Closely related to this is the second challenge we face, which is the need to transform the current approach to management to ensure that local communities – and other local stakeholders, including state governments – are provided with opportunities to play a meaningful role in management. The current system is very “top-down” focused; we are trying to encourage a more flexible and inclusive approach that will meet the needs of Targets 3 and 22.

Hence, there is a need to continue to expand the community conservation groups, which we are actively pursuing in several areas, as mentioned above.

Ensuring we have sufficient funds to continue our work is always a challenge! We have been incredibly lucky to have the support of a number of large organisations in Malaysia over the years – in one case for 10 years!

Reef Check survey by Redang Marine Conservation Group



CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS

19

MOBILIZE \$200 BILLION PER YEAR FOR BIODIVERSITY FROM ALL SOURCES, INCLUDING \$30 BILLION THROUGH INTERNATIONAL FINANCE

GBF **Target 19** could help with this. The target calls for an increase in financial resources to protect biodiversity, and we can already see early signs that international funding agencies are showing interest in investing in biodiversity conservation in Malaysia. This includes both philanthropic funding from corporations and foundations, but also the emerging field of nature-based solutions that will leverage funding through carbon and, more exciting, biodiversity credits. It's a very new field but we are working to understand how we might benefit from these new approaches to funding biodiversity conservation.

This fits well with our growing understanding that we can't look at individual ecosystems in isolation. Coral reefs are just one marine ecosystem that needs to be conserved; but reefs are ecologically very closely linked to mangroves and seagrasses, the health of one affecting the health of the others. So we are increasingly taking a more holistic view of marine resource management, to include these other ecosystems in our conservation programmes.



FUTURE GOALS & INITIATIVES

Towards the end of 2023 we reviewed our five-year strategy, which covers the period **2021-2025**. The strategy includes a statement of our goals, which are:

GOAL 1

Local stakeholders are empowered to participate in management of marine resources

GOAL 2

Resilience-based principles are incorporated into marine resource management

GOAL 3

The marine management policy, legal and funding framework is strengthened

We made some minor adjustments based on our experiences during the year, but most of it remains the same.

Having these clear goals helps us to plan cross-cutting programmes, to strengthen both the organisation and its programmes. But it also guides how we develop future interventions.

For **2024**, we will be putting more emphasis on how we can engage local stakeholders and State governments in managing marine resources. Local stakeholders are natural custodians of the islands and their resources; we believe they deserve a voice in management.

State governments are responsible for land issues and can have significant impacts on marine (and terrestrial) ecosystems depending on their approach to development. They are also the custodians of the natural assets that form an integral part of nature-based solutions, so they have to be involved in that conversation, too.

By strengthening the management of marine resources in this way, we hope to achieve our long-term vision to sustainably manage coral reefs in Malaysia – and hopefully include mangroves and seagrass in that!

SPONSORS



SPONSORS



Supported by:



Federal Ministry
for Economic Affairs
and Climate Action

Federal Foreign Office

IKI



INTERNATIONAL
CLIMATE
INITIATIVE

on the basis of a decision
by the German Bundestag





MEET THE TEAM

HEADQUARTERS



Julian Hyde
Chief Executive Officer



Theresa Ng
Chief Operations Officer



Alvin Chelliah
Chief Programmes Officer



Liyana Salleh
Communications Executive



Pricynthia
Education & Public Awareness



Farhanah Hasan
Administrative Assistant

CINTAI TIOMAN



Shahir Yaman
Programme Manager



Chen Sue Yee
Programme Manager



Suhaimi Mahadi
TMCG Liaison Officer



Nurasfarlela
Community Liaison Officer

REEF CHECK MALAYSIA
CINTAI MERSING



Nazirul Amin
Programme
Manager



Atteleth Don Peris
Programme Manager
(Sustainable Tourism)



Badriah Zainudin
Assistant Programme
Manager



Raveena
Assistant Programme
Manager

CINTAI REDANG



Putri Asma
Programme
Manager



Muhaimin
Assistant Programme
Manager

KOTA KINABALU & MANTANANI



Nadhirah Mohd Rifai
Programme Manager



Calvin Jenneh
Assistant Programme
Manager



Diana Amylia
Assistant Programme
Manager (Cintai Mantanani)

SEMPORNA



Adzmin Fatta
Programme Manager



Fauzi Jaini
Assistant Programme Manager



Redzuan Abidin
Assistant Programme Manager

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

As we reflect on the achievements and milestones of the past year, we are filled with immense gratitude for the invaluable contributions of our esteemed multi-year partners and sponsors. Their unwavering commitment to environmental conservation has left an indelible mark, transforming our shared vision into tangible, positive outcomes for our precious marine ecosystems.

We extend our heartfelt appreciation to **Yayasan Sime Darby** for their dedicated efforts in fostering a team of local marine conservationists and significantly enhancing the management of marine resources on Tioman Island, Pahang. Through their support, we have witnessed the empowerment of local communities and the tangible impact on the health and sustainability of Tioman's marine ecosystem.

A special commendation goes to **Yayasan Hasanah** for their instrumental role in building the capacity of local islanders in Terengganu to actively engage in marine conservation activities and biodiversity mapping. Their commitment to fostering local stewardship is creating a legacy, ensuring the long-term vitality of marine ecosystems in the region.

MISC's initiatives in improving coral reef management and addressing plastic waste in Mersing, Johor, and the surrounding islands have been nothing short of commendable. Their commitment to sustainable practices has set a precedent for responsible corporate citizenship and environmental stewardship.

Our sincere gratitude to **IKI** for their pivotal role in the rehabilitation of coral reefs off Semporna, Sabah. Their dedication to preserving marine biodiversity has not only rejuvenated vital ecosystems but also served as a beacon of inspiration for future conservation efforts.

We applaud **SC Johnson & Sons** for their commitment to environmental responsibility, particularly in establishing waste management and recycling programs on Lrarian Island, Sabah. Their initiatives are making a meaningful impact on reducing environmental degradation and keeping our oceans clean.

A heartfelt thank you to the **Coca-Cola Foundation** for their support in waste management and recycling programs on Mantanani Island, Sabah, and Perhentian Island, Terengganu. Their dedication to environmental conservation is contributing significantly to the health and resilience of these pristine island ecosystems.

We extend our appreciation to **KEPKAS & Sabah Parks** for their support in rehabilitating coral reefs and mapping reef resilience sites in Tun Sakaran Marine Park, Sabah. Their commitment to protecting and preserving marine biodiversity is vital in ensuring the sustained health of this unique marine ecosystem.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

A sincere thank you to **My Kasih Foundation** for their support in seagrass conservation efforts in the South of Johor. Their commitment to preserving seagrass habitats is crucial for the overall health and balance of marine ecosystems in the region.

We also wish to extend our deepest gratitude to the heartbeat of our conservation initiatives—our **dedicated volunteers** and **other supporters**. Your selfless contributions, boundless enthusiasm, and unwavering commitment have been the driving force behind the positive transformations we've witnessed in our marine ecosystems. Whether through hands-on participation in conservation activities, raising awareness within communities, or providing crucial support behind the scenes, each one of you has played an integral role in our collective success.

As we look forward to 2024, the continued support and collaboration remain instrumental in addressing the challenges our oceans face. **Together**, we are making strides toward a more sustainable and resilient future for our marine environments.



DO YOUR PART

Every individual action, no matter how small, contributes to the collective effort needed to protect our oceans. By adopting sustainable habits and advocating for responsible practices, anyone can make a significant positive impact on marine conservation.

REDUCE PLASTIC USE

Limit the use of single-use plastics, such as bags, bottles, and straws. Opt for reusable alternatives and participate in local beach clean-up activities to prevent plastic pollution.

EDUCATE YOURSELF AND OTHERS

Stay informed about marine conservation issues and spread awareness within your community. Knowledgeable individuals are more likely to make sustainable choices and advocate for positive change.

RESPONSIBLE TOURISM

When engaging in water-based activities, such as snorkeling, diving, or boating, choose eco-friendly operators that adhere to responsible and sustainable practices. Respect marine life and their habitats during these activities.

Choose certified **Eco-Friendly Snorkel Guides**, **Green Fins dive centres**, and **Green Hotel island operators**. Full list on our website: www.reefcheck.org.my

SUPPORT MARINE CONSERVATION ORGANIZATIONS

Contribute to or volunteer with reputable marine conservation organizations. Many organizations actively work to protect marine life, restore ecosystems, and promote sustainable practices.

SUPPORT US

SAVE OUR OCEAN

[DONATE](#)

GET INVOLVED

[BE AN ECODIVER](#)

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REEF CHECK MALAYSIA

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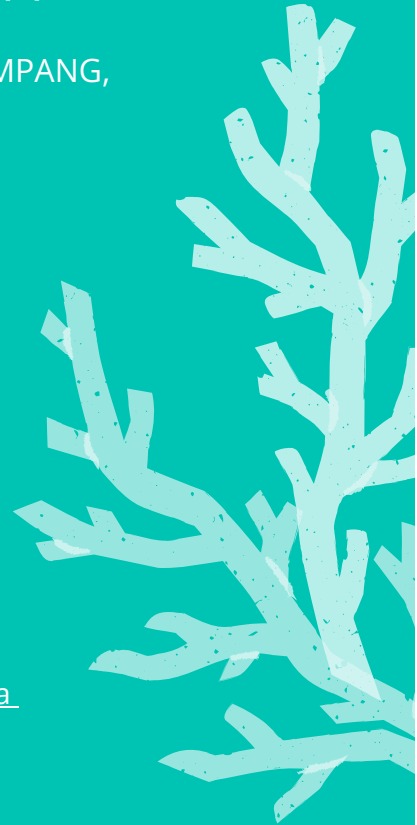
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